

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 OMB-01

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----- 101945

O R 021455Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7483

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 11284

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, IN, PFOR

SUBJECT: INDIAN POLITICIAN LASHES OUT AT WESTERN PRESS

1. MOHAMMED YUNUS, OFFICIALLY TITLED "SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE PM" ON THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TABLE OF ORGANIZATION, BUT MORE SIGNIFICANTLY A MEMBER OF THE PM'S "HOUSEHOLD" ADVISORS, SPOKE TO A CROWDED LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE NEW DELHI PRESS CLUB, JULY 31, AND BLASTED THE WESTERN PRESS FOR ITS ALLEGED MISREPORTING OF INDIA AND THE REST OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD, AND FOR CRITICIZING THE NON-ALIGNED PRESS POOL CONCEPT. HIS PARTICULAR TARGETS WERE THE U.K., FRG, AND U.S., WITH FRANCE AND CANADA COMING IN FOR SIDESWIPES AS WELL. ALMOST NO OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD, YUNUS SAID, HAD COMPLAINED ABOUT THE PRESS POOL.

2. YUNUS' BASIC THESES ON INDIA, TO THE EXTENT THESE CAN BE PYOLATED FROM WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A RAMBLING DISCOURSE (ACCORDING TO U.K. DIPLOMATS WHO WERE PRESENT AS GUESTS), WERE

(1) "NOBODY HAS THE RIGHT TO SAY THAT THE INDIAN GOVERN-

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MENT IS BAD," (2) SIN INDIA THE MAJORITY VIEW IS BURIED"

BY REPORTING OF THE WESTERN PRESS ELITE, (3) "IF WZTHIOUGD FORGET THESE FOUR OR XVVE COU WRIES (I.E., TXSE MENAONZG ABOVE) FOR THE NEXT FOUR OR FIVE YEARS, WE WOULD BE THE HAPPIEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD."

C3.VYUNUS SIGNLED OUT SPECIFIC STORIES WHICH HAD APPEARED IN THE WESTERN PRESS, A

K "REFUTED" INACCURACIES AM SLANDERRD

AS SEEN BY THE GOI. AFTER A LONG RECITAL OF EXAMPLES, YUNUS OBSERVED THAT THE WESTERN PRESS WAS GUILTY OF DOUBLE STAWDARDS, AND BEHAVES AS THOUGH TIEY WERE "FOUNDED BY GOD ALMIGHTY AND EDITED BY JESUS CHRIST."

4. IN AN ASIDE NOT REPORTED IN THE PRESS, YUNUS NOTED THAT THE PRESENT U.S. PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT HAD BOTH BEEN APPOINTED BY "ONE OF THE WICKEDEST MEN IN THE WORLD," AND IF THE U.S. LANTED TO ELECT A "FOOTBALAER" AS PRESIDENT, IT WAS NOT FOR THE INDIANS TO CRITICIZE THIS. TURNING TO THE WEST GERMANS, AFTER CITING SE ERAL EXAMPLES OF ALEGED WEST GERMAN PRESS MISSTATEMENTS ABOUT INDIA, YUNUS ASKED WHAT COULD BE EXYECTED FROM PEOPLE WHO HAD LEARNED THEIR TRADE FROM RZEBBELS. THE BRITISH DIPLOMATS PRESENT FELT THEY HAD GOTTEN AWAY FAIRLY LIGHTLY, AFTER ONLY BEING ACCUSED OF SUCKING THE BLOOD OF INDIANS FOR 200 YEARS. CANADA WAS ATTACKED FOR PRETENDING TO BE ONORABLE WHILE GOING BACK ON ITS NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH INDIA. THE PROPER IMAGE OF INDIA WHICH SHOULD BE PRESENTED IN THE WORLD PRESS, YUNUS SAID, WAS OF A "PROUD PEOPLE WHO ARE BENT ON DOING SOMETHING GOOD, NOT ONLY FOR OURSELVES,HOUT OUR CHILDREN AND CHILDREN'S CHILDREN."

5. WE UNDERSTAND THAT JIPI HAS FILED (OR IS FILING) ON THE YUNUS STORY. THE BRITISH ARE AMUSED BUT DISINCLINED TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE NOTORIOUSLY OFF-HAND YUNUS WHOSE REMARKS IN ANY EVENT WERE EXTEMPORANEOUS, AND WHOSE MORE OBJECTIONABLE REFERENCES WERE NOT REPORTED IN THE PRESS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, PFOR, POLITICAL LEADERS, THE PRESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE11284
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760297-0518
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760894/aaaadexp.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIAN POLITICIAN LASHES OUT AT WESTERN PRESS
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, IN, US, FR, UK, (YUNIS, MOHAMMED)
To: EUR SECSTATE WASHDC BONN LONDON OTTAWA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006